

AGRiVIEW



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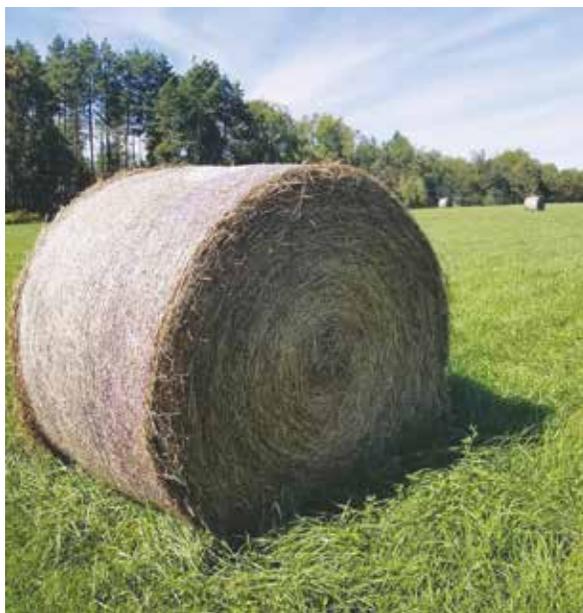
New Feed-Finder Marketplace Connects Farmers in Need with Available Feed

Wet summer has created need to connect feed buyers and sellers from across New England and Canada

By Scott Waterman, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The severe and soggy weather this summer has created feed issues for those raising livestock. With a tremendous need to find feed for farmers and producers, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (Agency), and the Vermont Agency of Digital Services (ADS) have created a resource for those looking to buy and/or sell feed. This online marketplace is available now.

“The constant rain this summer has created a feed shortage for many farmers. This new, free directory is an



easy way for those looking for feed to connect with those with feed for sale,” said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont’s

Secretary of Agriculture.

Those selling hay, alfalfa, corn, soy, silage, and haylage can easily advertise their feed on the directory and can include details like whether the feed is organic and if the seller can deliver. For farmers looking for feed, the directory provides an easy platform through which they can quickly view availability, location, and pricing for a variety of feed.

The Agency and ADS are encouraging feed sellers from across the region, including Canada, to utilize the site. “By creating this online directory, feed sellers from across the northeast can now advertise in this Vermont resource. We are glad we could offer

this service to our hard-working farmers and feed dealers,” said Denise Reilly-Hughes, Vermont’s Secretary of Digital Services.

The site can be found at: <https://cloud.agriculture.vermont.gov/FeedFinder/HaySell.aspx>

The Agency is asking all those who have feed for sale to please advertise in this online system. Registration is free and takes just a few minutes and sellers will benefit from the wide-scale promotion of this resource. The Agency will be promoting and maintaining the Marketplace through the winter and into the next growing season.

Screen shots from the Marketplace can be found on page 9.

AGRiVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

As we travel into deep fall, we hope many are on the road to recovery after one of most challenging summers in memory. The floods and severe weather created havoc for our farmers, producers, businesses, renters, and homeowners. Our farmer impact survey found that more than \$16 million dollars were recorded in losses impacting more than 27,000 acres. It will be a challenging fall and winter for many, but Vermonters are committed to rebuilding.

As we began to recover, we worked with many state and private partners to show that Vermont is recovering post-flood, is open for business, and is strong. We used many Vermont voices to invite visitors to come to the Green Mountains to witness and experience Vermont's working landscape. This

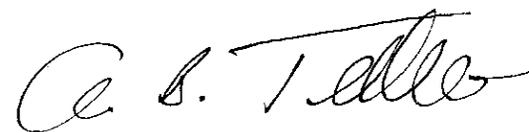
campaign invited all to explore and stay in Vermont. We have so much to share with the visitors including quiet spaces, beautiful hills, valleys, and villages. Did we mention the food and drink? The cows, the sheep, the goats? Vermont's cheeses, chocolates, maple, beers, wines, and spirits are world class. We are grateful to all our farmers, producers and entrepreneurs who make this possible.

Vermont with its small population relies on visitors to support its economy. They come here because of Vermont's farms and recreation.

Please continue to spread the word that Vermont is open and ready to serve up the finest stay whether it's driving to Vermont for the day to maybe it's a weekend or an entire week or two. There is so much Vermont can offer.

Vermonters have gone through

so much in the last three years, but they are "darn tough" and "Vermont strong." Thank you for supporting your neighbors during this difficult stretch in our history. And thank you for welcoming visitors in every season. Wishing you a safe and quiet fall before the snow flies.



Anson Tebbetts,
Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

This Month's Recipe

Pumpkin Pancakes

Makes 12 pancakes

Ingredients

- 1½ cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice (optional)
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger (optional)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup canned pumpkin (not pie filling!)
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup milk
- 2 large eggs
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup, plus more for serving

Directions

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, allspice, ginger, and salt. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the pumpkin and melted but-



ter. Whisk in the milk, followed by the eggs and maple syrup. Add the flour mixture and whisk until smooth. If the batter seems too thick, add 1 to 2 more tablespoons of milk. Do not over-mix.

3. Heat a griddle or nonstick pan over medium heat and grease lightly (with butter, shortening or vegetable oil). Drop about ¼ cup batter from a small ladle or large spoon and cook until the puffy and bubbling on top and golden and crisp on the bottom, about 2 minutes. Flip and cook until the bottom is golden, about 30 seconds. Serve immediately with maple syrup.

Make a batch ahead of time! Freezer-Friendly Instructions: After the pancakes have cooled, place a sheet of parchment or wax paper between each pancake and stack together. Wrap the stack of pancakes tightly in aluminum foil or place inside a heavy-duty freezer bag. To reheat, place them in a single layer on a baking sheet and cover with foil. Bake in a 375°F oven for about 8 to 10 minutes, or until hot.

C O N N E C T

W I T H U S



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ANSON TEBBETTS, Secretary
Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

TERRY SMITH
Editor

FAITH RAYMOND, Managing Editor

SCOTT WATERMAN, Contributing Editor

Advertising and subscriptions:

E-mail: agr.agriview@vermont.gov

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Capital Equipment Assistance Program Open for Applications

By Sonia Howlett, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to announce that funding is available for farmers in the Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP). Financial assistance is available for new or used innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff to agricultural wastes to State waters, improve water quality of State waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, mitigate greenhouse gases, or reduce costs to farmers.

Eligible applicants include custom applicators, nonprofit organizations, phosphorus extraction equipment providers, and Vermont farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices.

CEAP is a reimbursement style grant program, which means applicants, once selected for funding, will have to purchase 100% of the equipment and will be reimbursed by the State up to 90% of the actual cost, or up to the corresponding funding cap by category. Please note that shipping/freight fees are not reimbursable costs.

CEAP applications are due by November 1, 2023. Application requirements include completion of the CEAP Application, an applicant questionnaire, and quotes for the requested equipment.

Letter/s of support are optional and should add relevant and helpful information about your application if submitted.

Please refrain from including letters of support which may clearly be biased.

We highly encourage applicants to apply online to ensure a timely receipt of applications. This method

of submission also provides applicants with confirmation that their application has been received.

Notification of grant awards will occur by February 1, 2024, and equipment purchase will be required after award notice and before June 1, 2024.

To learn more about the Capital Equipment Assistance Program or to review the application and program details, including application ranking criteria, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap.

Contact Sonia Howlett at Sonia.Howlett@Vermont.gov or (802) 522-4655) with additional questions.



Agency staff and Geordie Lynd discuss how a 2020 grant for a Wastewater Hard Hose Traveler has improved efficiency of waste management on Northwind Farm. Northwind Farm irrigates a network of pastures with their liquid waste using this CEAP equipment. In dry years, they have seen greatly improved regrowth in irrigated pastures. This system also enables them to manage the remainder of their waste as solids, which can be spread on more distant fields using existing farm equipment.

Eligible Equipment Purposes and Funding Rates

Equipment Purpose	Examples of Eligible Equipment	Funding Rates <i>Award amount may vary depending on the project type, cost and expected results.</i>
Precision Agriculture: To accurately and digitally observe, monitor and respond to field variability and improve nutrient management planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit Manure or Yield Constituent Sensor Precision Feed Equipment 	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
Conservation Tillage: To reduce the frequency or intensity of tillage operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-Till Planter No-Till Grain Drill primarily for reseeding pastures or hayland Planter Downforce 	90% cost-share up to \$30,000 per applicant
Cover Crop Equipment: To increase or improve cover cropping implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-Till Grain Drill primarily for planting cover crop Roller Crimper 	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant
Waste Management: To improve waste and nutrient management, nutrient application efficiency and methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injectors Waste irrigation Dragline system Methane capture Composting equipment (for compost principally produced and used on farm) 	90% cost-share up to \$60,000 per individual farmer 90% cost-share up to \$100,000 per custom applicator, group of farmers, or nonprofit organization.
Feed Management: To reduce impacts from silage leachate and reduce feed imports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balers/Wrappers 	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant

NOTE: A precision manure record keeping system [GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit] must be used with waste management equipment funded under the CEAP program. If applicant does not have guaranteed access to an operational precision system to use with their waste management equipment, a precision system must be included in application.

DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

Announcing the 2023 Processing Innovation Research & Development Grantees

By Katie Spring, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

Investing in dairy processing is a critical aspect of building a more resilient and sustainable regional dairy system, and yet the cost of implementing research and development that may lead to improved processing is often prohibitive for individual businesses.

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation's Processor Research & Development Innovation Grant provides funding

to research alternatives to current industry standards through projects that support dairy processors in gaining knowledge that will allow them to make informed, long-term business investments with positive environmental and/or economic impacts.

This year, seven businesses across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont were granted between \$79,000 and \$250,000, with total overall funding of \$1,063,890 for research and development innovation. Their projects range in

scope from developing and enhancing novel products, to market and distribution enhancement, wastewater reclamation, bilingual education for ice cream makers, and strategic marketing.

The three Vermont grantees and their projects are:

Miller Farm, an organic dairy, will transition, in partnership with Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNESU), a minimum of three elementary schools and one high school from serving milk in cartons to

local organic milk in bulk dispensers and establish a new scalable market model that will increase institutional demand for regional dairy products while simultaneously improving nutrition, food safety, and reducing waste in public schools.

Food Connects, a non-profit food hub, will bring more dairy producers onto the Food Connects wholesale distribution platform, increase capacity to promote and sell more dairy products, and forge new and innovative supply chains within and beyond

the Northeast, with an aim to continue expanding new markets for Northeast dairy producers.

Masterful Storytelling, in partnership with Plymouth Cheese, Vermont Farmstead Cheese Co., Cabot, Grafton Village, and Jasper Hill, will research best practices in order to create a pilot program of tourism for elite cheesemongers, chefs, and food critics to learn more about Vermont Cheese and why they want to come here. Focusing on cheddar, they will introduce three different events to test the market for cheese tourism.

Current Grants for Dairy Processors Across the Northeast

By Ali Boochever, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center at VAAFM

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces two upcoming grants for cow, goat, and sheep dairy farmers.



Look for the Request for Applications (RFA) for the grants below, plus our full funding calendar, on our website: nedairyinnovation.com/grants

Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant

This grant for dairy farmers will fund a wide range of projects that prioritize long term farm viability and their ability to adapt to climate and economic challenges. Projects at all stages and levels of complexity will be considered, but the most competitive projects will include direct involvement

of a service provider, business planner, farm succession planner, or technical assistance provider to demonstrate a strategic, long-term approach to their grant project investment.

The RFA for this grant is expected to be released October 10th, 2023. Awards will range from \$15,000 - \$100,000 with a 25% match commitment.

Dairy farmers across the 11-states of the Northeast are eligible to apply. Current and former farmer participants from NE-DBIC cohort farmers will receive

priority for \$695,000 of the funds from this grant. Total funds available in this round: \$1,495,000.

Milk Storage & Handling Grant

Northeast dairy farmers looking to access funds that support the purchase of equipment and other related costs that will improve milk storage, handling, and energy efficiencies will be able to apply for this upcoming funding opportunity in the fall. This grant provides funds for farmers to purchase needed supplies related to long-term farm viability

including streamlined milk pickup, efficient milk storage, and improved handling abilities for both farmers and their processors.

The RFA for this application is expected to be released in early November 2023. Awards will range from \$15,000 to \$50,000 with a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement. Total funds available in this round: \$800,000.

For more information about these grants, contact the NE-DBIC team at agr.dairyinnovation@vermont.gov

Conservation Districts Seek Supervisors and Associate Supervisors

By Natural Resources Conservation District

Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCs) are units of local government that were established by local land-

owners after the 1939 Soil Conservation Act. NRCs have served their communities for decades, guiding local conservation efforts, securing funding for local projects, and advocating for local concerns to state and national agencies. Today, NRCs are the boots

on the ground for implementing state and national efforts to protect water quality and soil health and combat climate change.

Each NRC is run by a board of supervisors. Supervisors are elected for a term of five years and supported by a District Manager and volunteer associate supervisors. Supervisors live in their district; provide direction, leadership, and guidance to the District Manager; and bring valuable local perspective to the natural resources conservation planning process. With

strong ties to their community and a range of expertise from farming to forestry and more, supervisors are the most important asset in guiding the direction of their Natural Resources Conservation District.

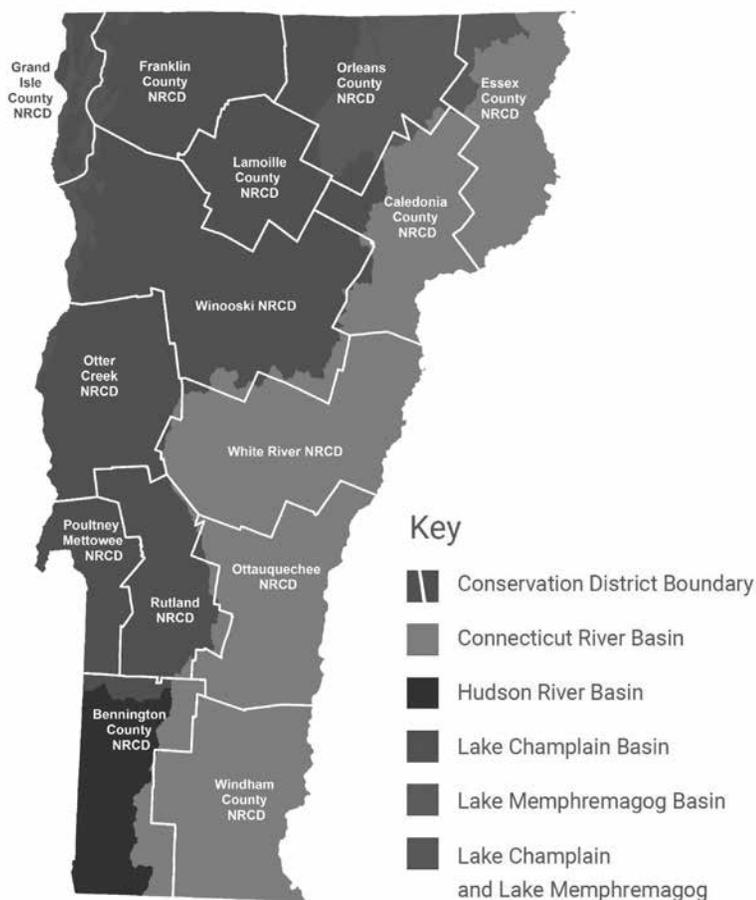
Anyone interested in running for the office of supervisor must reside within the boundaries of their local district. To have your name placed on an upcoming election ballot for the office of supervisor, a person must have a minimum of twenty-five (25) signatures from local

landowners on nominating petitions. Supervisor terms typically begin in January.

In addition, NRCs welcome the inclusion of associate supervisors, non-voting members appointed by the Board, who may have an interest in the general activities of their NRC or a specific area of interest or expertise to share.

Interested? To find out more about how to get involved and the timeline of this year's elections, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation District: <https://www.vacd.org/contact-nrcds>

Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts



Pesticide Applicator Certification Exams

By Stephanie Smith, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Are you ready to take a Pesticide Applicator certification exam? Have you studied the appropriate materials? Do you know which exam or exams you need to become certified or licensed? Are you 18 or older? Please register online at least a week (7 days) in advance or by contacting the Certification & Training coordinator at 802-828-1732. All exams are given by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. Scan the QR Code to schedule.

- All exams are CLOSED BOOK
- Please bring a calculator
- Please bring a current, state-issued, picture ID (required)

There is no cost to sit for (take) exams, *however* there is a fee for obtaining certification.



Upcoming Events

DSANA Virtual Symposium: Join the Dairy Sheep Association of North America on November 8th and 9th for a virtual conference. Free to all DSANA members. Get more information at dsana.org

Northeast Dairy Innovation Summit: Save the date for NE-DBIC's regional summit, April 2nd and 3rd in Albany, NY. For more information, visit: nedairyinnovation.com/summit

Montpelier
Every Wednesday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Williston
Bi-weekly
1st and 3rd Thursdays
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

St. Johnsbury
Monthly
Every 2nd Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Rutland
Monthly
1st Tuesday
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Newport
Monthly
1st Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Brattleboro
Monthly
1st Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program Awards Early Adopters

New Applications Accepted Through November 3rd

By Noah Gilbert-Fuller, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food &
Markets

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to announce the release of payments under a new program, the Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program. So far, \$150,000 has been released to 30 Vermont farms for their ongoing participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This state incentive payment opportunity will continue to be available for new CSP applicants, but funding

is limited. Producers are encouraged to work with their local NRCS office to start the application process now.

The Conservation Stewardship Program is a federal program that helps land managers enhance a variety of natural resources across their whole farm while improving their business operations. CSP requires farms to meet certain environmental objectives and to commit to five years of enhanced conservation on their land. In return, producers receive an annual conservation payment, which ranges from \$1,500-\$40,000 per year for five years depending on the type and scale of conservation activities

planned by the farm. This program funds the most acres of conservation in the United States but has historically been undersubscribed in Vermont. In 2022 NRCS awarded only 4 Conservation Stewardship Program contracts in Vermont. In part due to the Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program and local outreach efforts, NRCS anticipates awarding 36 Conservation Stewardship Program contracts this year.

The Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program is designed to introduce more Vermont farmers to the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program and to increase the number of farms who seek to improve their

environmental stewardship. The state incentive is designed to provide upfront incentive payments and technical assistance to increase the number of farms who enroll in CSP. Each farmer who applies for a new contract with CSP will be eligible to receive between \$2,000 and \$9,500 in state incentives, depending on their level of engagement.

Interested applicants who have yet to apply for the Conservation Stewardship Program are encouraged to work with their local NRCS office now to begin their application. Applications for state incentive payments under the Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program will continue to be

accepted through November 3rd, but funding is limited!

To apply for the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program, Vermont farms must first contact their local Farm Services Agency (FSA) to ensure their farm records are up to date, and then submit an application to their local NRCS office. FSA and NRCS office locations can be found online at the USDA Service Center locator. More information about the Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program can be found at agriculture.vermont.gov/CSP-Assist.

If you have any questions, you can contact Noah Gilbert-Fuller at 802-505-3407 or Noah.Gilbert-Fuller@vermont.gov.



Connecting Job Seekers With Ag Jobs

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) recently created a new Vermont Agriculture Employment Opportunity web site that looks to connect job seekers with available farm and agricultural employment opportunities. Jobs available now range from farm hand to cheesemaker to meat packager. Housing opportunities are also available with certain employment opportunities.

If you have a farm job that needs filling, submit your job posting here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/farm-agriculture-sector-employment-opportunities> or scan the QR code.

If you are seeking employment and are interested in an agriculture opportunity, visit here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/vermont-agricultural-employment-opportunities>

VAAFAM will continue to offer this opportunity to connect job seekers with ag jobs, so bookmark the page and keep checking.

**SEEKING AG JOBS
FOR
JOB SEEKERS**

**HELP
WANTED
APPLY WITHIN**

IF YOU HAVE A FARM JOB THAT NEEDS FILLING, SUBMIT YOUR
JOB POSTING TO THE NEW

- VAAFAM Ag & FARM JOB BULLETIN BOARD -

WE WANT TO CONNECT JOB SEEKERS WITH YOUR EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY AND THE BENEFITS OF YOUR AG JOB!

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/farm-agriculture-sector-employment-opportunities>



New Requirements for Waste Imports to Manure Pits and Digesters on Farms

By Jessica Mason, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Vermont's Universal Recycling Law passed in 2014 and has phased in various requirements from composting to residential recycling collection. As many folks are aware, this law requires Vermonters to divert organic wastes from the state's single landfill. It is increasingly understood that these "wastes" have nutrient value and can be recycled for animal feed, fuel, or fertilizer, instead of taking up limited landfill capacity. Recognizing this potential, farms are increasingly on the receiving end of these materials and are helping to close the nutrient cycle. Here is a scenario: corn and hay are grown to feed dairy cows; cows produce milk that goes to a dairy processing plant; the plant produces VT's famous dairy products and, incidentally, processing waste; this waste (containing nutrients) goes back to the farm to fertilize the corn and hay land, closing the nutrient loop. Recycling these waste

streams reduces the need for importing fertilizer from outside the watershed and, in turn, can lessen the water quality impacts to our lakes and rivers.

Another recycling initiative that is gaining momentum is the methane digester (also called "anaerobic digester") which utilizes organic wastes

and/or animal manure to produce renewable methane gas or "biogas" on farms. The digester transforms the energy-rich carbon in the waste material into methane that can be used to produce electricity or further refined for use by natural gas utilities. This technology captures greenhouse gases from animal manure that would otherwise escape to the atmosphere and produces homegrown energy to reduce the fossil fuels required to meet Vermonter's energy needs.

As part of Act 129 of 2020, signed into law by Governor Scott on July 1, 2020, AAFM was directed to regulate the generators or haulers of non-sewage waste

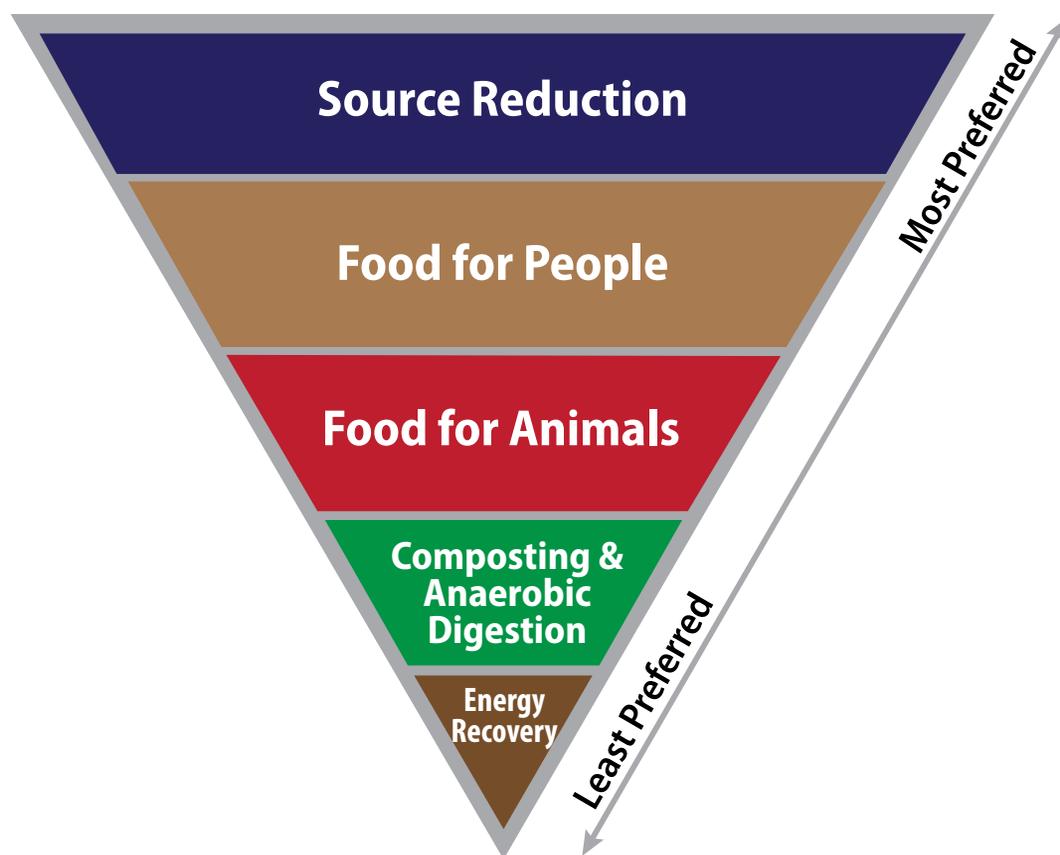
who are transporting or arranging for the transport of non-sewage waste to a farm for deposit into a manure pit or for use as an input in a methane digester. AAFM's Water Quality Division is launching the Non-sewage Waste Transfer Program to meet this directive. Common examples of non-sewage waste include dairy and other food processing waste, brewery or winery waste, wash waters, and food residuals. Generators of non-sewage waste who plan to transfer to a farm for deposit in a manure pit or methane digester, must apply to the Non-sewage Waste Transfer Program and receive approval from AAFM before the waste is transferred.

As the world of organic recycling expands, AAFM is working to understand the sources, variability in nutrient content, and risks of potential contamination of different waste streams. As part of the application, the Non-Sewage Waste Transfer Program will be requiring a standard lab analysis of the waste material and, when additional review is warranted, the Recipient Farm's Nutrient Management Plan. The intent of the program is to track these waste imports and help ensure farms are aware of what is being put on their land. The program aims to minimize pollution to water resources, maintain productive agricultural soils, and ensure that the Agency can be responsive in the case of concerns in the future.

More program information and application materials are available on our website at agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/non-sewage-waste. For questions, you can also reach out to Jessica Mason at (802) 595-4726 or via email to AGR.WQpermits@vermont.gov.



Vermont Food Recovery Hierarchy



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FIND FEED USER GUIDE

1. Look for a specific farm by entering the name.
2. Look in your town or neighboring towns.
3. Look in your county.
4. Look for organic
5. Look for a type of feed
6. Look outside of Vermont
7. Filter/Clear your choices
8. View your selected data/farms/feed

Find Livestock Feed

This page is for people looking to purchase feed. If you're looking to list feed for sale, [CLICK THIS LINK.](#)

Below is a list of farms that have livestock feed available. Use filters to narrow results.
If you have questions, please contact VAAFM at AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov

1 2 3 4 ORGANIC

6 5 DELIVERY SERVICES AVAILABLE

7

DISPLAYING 54 FARMS. CLICK COLUMN HEADING TO SORT.

8	FARM NAME	NAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE/PROVINCE	DELIVERY AVAILABLE	ORGANIC	PRODUCTS
Select	+MOUNTAIN MEADOWS FARM	BRIAN KEMP	98 VAIL RD	SUDBURY	ADDISON	VT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SILAGE - CORN (TON); SILAGE - GRASS (TON);
Select	AIRES-HILL FARM	KARIE ATHERTON	2315 NORTH RD	ENOSBURG FALLS	FRANKLIN	VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HAY - SMALL SQUARES 2ND CUT;
Select	ALDIHO	CAROLYN KITTELL	804 RILEY RD	FRANKLIN	FRANKLIN	VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO FEED INVENTORY LISTED
Select	ASHLINE FARMS	LARRY ASHLINE	297 BOAS RD.	MOOERS		NY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HAY - WRAPPED ROUND BALES WET (ENSILED);

SELL FEED USER GUIDE

1. Enter Farm Name
2. Enter Name and Address
3. Enter Town and State
4. Enter County
5. Enter Email Address
6. Enter Phone Number
7. Enter Delivery Status
8. Enter Product Available / Add Product

Sell Livestock Feed (Registration Page)

This page is for registering your farm to SELL livestock feed. If you are looking for feed to buy, [CLICK THIS LINK.](#)

Register below to enroll your farm as a resource for other farms to purchase livestock feed. Fields marked with an * are required.
If you have questions, please contact VAAFM at AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov

Farm Name * 1

First Name 2 Last Name

Address

Town 3 VT 4

Email Address * 5 Phone Number 6

Preferred method of contact Email Phone 7 Delivery Available

Use this field for notes, special instructions, or any additional information you would like posted on the page for potential customers regarding your farm or products.

Specify Products available for sale. Choose from the drop down list, or choose other and describe the product in the textbox.

CHOOSE PRODUCT Organic 8 Price Per Unit

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension
802-257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.vvbga.org

Reports From The Field

(Johnson) Good news: We are doing better than I thought we would since the flood. Farmstand has been busy, and some greenhouse crops, lettuce, and beets are coming back.

Bad news, even the crops we had above flood waters are in terrible shape. Only got about 10% percent yield out of our 6 acres of winter squash and pumpkins. Plants just died, fruit rotted, rained just about every day here. Potatoes are suspected to have late blight. Trying to treat and get what we can out of them. Worst farming year ever, looking forward to 2024.

(Guildhall) Not too bad out here, on balance anyway. Of 52 acres of potatoes, 12 flooded and died, 20 look like a below average yield, and 20 look phenomenal. Fungicide applications seem to have worked, so that's something. We're already digging reds for fresh orders; demand is much higher than usual. We tried a lot of new-to-us varieties this year, but varietal comparisons have been nixed due to the way

different fields behaved in such an unrelentingly wet year.

(Westminster) Since the first of June, our farm hasn't gone more than three days without rain – and the sun didn't always shine on those days. But despite losing 75 percent of our winter squash crop and other weather losses in broccoli, and lettuce with bottom rot, things are looking up for the fall. Kale and lettuce plantings look great, and we have a plethora of purple daikon, watermelon radish, rutabaga, and purple-top turnip.

Our storage red cabbage won't do well, mostly because of the variety – we've yet to find something that stores well. The green cabbage looks good, however. And we should have a great crop of storage carrots, although beets grew poorly this year.

We've started seeding cover crops, concentrating on rye/vetch and peas/oats to provide fertility. That will help replace the manure and compost we have less access to. We've also found a local supplier of organic fertilizer, giving us more flexibility in ordering and securing fertilizer.

(Huntington) Writing this on a blazing hot Monday afternoon following seven gloriously rainless days. It seems weird to report that we received 29.8" of rain from June 7 through August. Most crops are doing OK, though the only crop that I would say has been above average would be sweet corn, and I have no explanation for how that's possible, except supposing that corn is actually more of

a moss than a C4 grass.

Onions were meh, early returns on winter squash are somewhat below average, and potatoes look surprisingly decent, though definitely not yields to brag about. Fall brassica transplants seemed to like the rain, as did our late beet/carrot seeding. Direct seeded greens were garbage all summer, though luckily those crops are very minor for us.

(East Montpelier) Pumpkin and raspberry crops total failure this year due to too much rain. Pumpkins had good foliage and flowered quite a bit, but gourds never emerged. Plants still look good and blooming but no fruit, seem to be mostly male flowers. Potatoes rotted due to too much rain. Delicata crop slowly coming in. Butternut squash overtaken by slugs.

Sunflowers were shorter and bloomed nearly 4 weeks later than schedule due to rain and lower than usual temps. Second sunflower planting succession no germination due to seeds rotting from too much rain. Zinnias and marigolds are prolific and happy, but we've got Japanese beetle damage on their leaves which we never had previously. Grasshoppers are also doing a number on the sunflowers. Cucumber abundance, they seem to love the wet weather, but zucchinis crapped out early. Big puddles and soggy fields are all about.



(E. Wallingford) Still picking beautiful blueberries. Thanks to my Helena Chemical rep who came out many times to check crops, deliver product, did soil samples, due back next week for leaf samples. Picked our Elliotts for PYO on Labor Day weekend as well as some mid-season varieties.

Pumpkins starting to run and make fruit; will see if there is enough growing season left. Not much winter squash. Tomatoes finally ripening. All replanted veggies look better with sunshine and might make a crop with the warm weather this week.

(Marlboro) Some observations on SWD control in our blueberries and raspberries: The SWD netting has been superb. Very little SWD under the net even into September, great berries on Bluecrop and Nelson. It is 85-gram netting for longevity (we hope), in its second year.

Spray schedule this year on the uncovered berries: first Entrust applied July 19, second Entrust July 27. These worked reasonably well and kept damage manageable except in the Blueray.

Maybe because the Blueray is earlier than the Bluecrop, maybe they have a thinner skin, maybe they are a bit darker in color and attract more? If we plant more, we will consider replacing Blueray with Bluecrop. Bluegold has also held up better to SWD. Third spray applied August 9, Pyganic, not expecting the same efficacy but hoped for some. Then another Entrust spray as the crop is ripening.

Lost most of the

uncovered berries starting around mid-August but the sprays certainly saved us much of a month of decent picking. All in all a successful blueberry year and a good learning experience. Very poor raspberry crop, but the sprays kept SWD from wiping it out.

(Westminster West) While not flooded by rivers or streams we did have our soil drainage system fail so huge amounts of rainwater backed up into our fields for weeks. We've been unable to cultivate, and orchard grass quickly overwhelmed the potatoes and smothered 65% of the crop. Grateful we can get good potatoes from a drier field.

On a positive note, most other crops have done well, grown on plastic in raised beds they thrived once the rains stopped. Harvesting winter squash now to fill huge orders. Cabbage, onions, celery loved the water. This has been an easy year in terms of insect problems. No squash bugs or cucumber beetles, no hornworm, little CPB, yes cabbage worms but weekly Dipel sprays were adequate for control. Some disease issues from saturated soils, but localized.

Root crops look good; carrots loved the rain! Garlic crop is selling steady with much seed grade gone and local stores buying steadily. Renting out some acreage to a chicken and egg operation that moves the flock daily to fresh ground, leaving their droppings for us; it seems like a nice fit and happy to see animals on this farm again!

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in *Agriview* sign up to be a paid subscriber — visit our website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news/agriview/advertising-agriview>

Email: Ag.agriview@vermont.gov, phone: 802-828-1619. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for next month's issue. Example: January 1st deadline for February issue.

Cattle

Breeding age Bulls. Good selection, 14 -16 months of age, Register Holsteins. Popular sires. Dams or granddams: EX or VG w/ records to 40,000 lbs., 4.0%, 1800 fat. Delivery available. Robeth Holsteins, Rochester, VT. 802-767-3926. (11)

Organic Freestall Holstein herd. Closed herd over 30 years vaccinated. No Johne's or Staph A. Some cows tested for A2. AI bred, select sire power. Fall freshening. Our cows are calm and we want them to go to a good home. Joel Pominville, Middlebury, Vt. 802-377-0039 (12)

Jersey & Jersey/Holstein cross dairy cows, Some A2, in NW Vermont; farm certified Organic since 2005, Grass-

only since 2012. Organic Valley is terminating my contract because I dry off too many cows in the winter, reducing my milk-weights. They are cancelling my farm Aug 15, arbitrarily mid-grazing season. Cows are vaccinated, Negative for Johnes, and include 5 first-calf heifers. Contact (802)-868-2356 (farm landline) or (802)-370-1051 (girlfriend's cell) with questions. (12)

Grass-fed dairy cows for sale, bred for spring 2024. Pure jerseys and Normande/Jersey crosses; Currently making 25-40#/day, OAD milking, 100% grassfed, bred to grass Holstein/Jersey dairy bull, preg checked. \$1800 each or \$1700 each for 3 or more. All are good cows, selling because we have too many spring

calving and just bought some fall calving. Location: Keeseville, NY, Contact: Ashlee 518-645-2697 info@northcountrycreamery.com. Craigslist ad has more info and photos: <https://plattsburgh.craigslist.org/grd/d/keeseville-dairy-cows-for-sale-bred-for/7660494699.html> (12)

Equipment

PTO three point hitch post hole digger. Excellent working condition \$400. Two Travis horse drawn work sleds. Good condition. Need poles for work team. \$150 each or both for \$250. 802-291-4525 (10)

Superior Model GS394- 7' blade 3-point hitch double action sickle mower excellent condition. Includes Extra knife section/guards bar with tool box, spare parts, parts book & Sickle Servicer Model S4--\$2,150. 802-439-6348 (11)

Set of tracks and boogie wheels to fit MF-50 or similar tractors \$250, Harland McKirryher, RiverDell Farm, 802-767-2602. (12)

2 Flex auger good working condition. One international manure spreader good shape. John Deere KBA Harrows. 80



ft New Holland hay elevator. 802-624-0143 (12)

Hay, Feed & Forage

We have 1st and 2nd cut wrapped round bales for sale. \$45 each. We do not have trucking but can load. Great for dairy or beef 802-563-2150 (12)

Certified Organic 2nd cut wrapped round bales. 802-592-3356 (12)

FRANKLIN COUNTY
Good quality hay 1c & 2c from western US & Canada. Alfalfa orchard and orchard sweet grass. 18 to 20% plus protein. Large bales and organic by trailer loads. Large or small

square bales of straw whole or processed at farm we load or direct delivery by trailer load. 802-849-6266 or 802-373-5217 (12)

Sheep & Goats

Villa Villekulla Farm yearlings for sale. Purebred Alpine and Alpine-Nubian crosses. No milking records available but all boast Lazy Lady genetics. From tested disease-free herd. Two-year old does in milk also available. Must go in pairs at minimum. Experienced goat handlers and small scale farms only. Contact lauren@villavillekullafarm.com for pricing and more info. (10)



The University of Vermont

Engaging minds that change the world

Farmyard and Field Specialist

The University of Vermont's Miller Research Education Center (MREC) is seeking a Farmyard and Field Specialist to support farm operations and assist program faculty and students. This position will work to develop and maintain management plans for the farm's 140-acre forage crop and pasture lands; maintain a nutrient management plan and pest /weed control strategies; direct manure and compost management; and maintain MREC's mission of education, research, and outreach. This position will assist MREC's Herdsperson and Equipment Operator by driving tractors, operating skid steers, mixing cattle feed, and handling large animals. Additional responsibilities include assistance to the CALS Facilities Manager and Business Office to administer and coordinate processes related to farm equipment, supplies, repair services, and work with contracted farmers. This position will also assist in supervision of temporary employees to ensure completion of relevant duties, operations, and safety training and engage with community partners and subject matter experts to maintain knowledge relevant to the MREC field and farm operations.

Bachelor's degree in Dairy Farm Management, Agribusiness Management, Agronomy or related field and one to three years' experience working with large animals in a farm environment required (or equivalent combination of education and experience). Valid Driver's License and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) required, or ability to obtain within one year. Demonstrated skills in operation of farm equipment, including up to 200hp tractors, skid steers and feed mixers, the ability to work cooperatively with instructors and students and the ability to follow required agricultural management practices required. This position will require a post-offer pre-employment (POPE test) physical examination.

For more information, visit our website www.uvmjobs.com, posting #S4498PO. Candidates must submit an electronic application, resume, and cover letter. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until suitable candidates are found. The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution. Applicants are encouraged to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal.

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.

HAVE FEED?
NEED FEED?
BUY / SELL

FARM FEED-FINDER MARKETPLACE

HELPING CONNECT FARMS AND FEED

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/farm-feed-finder-marketplace>

Recycling Pesticide Containers in Vermont

By Public Health
and Ag Resource
Management Division

Pesticides are used in homes and across many industries in Vermont: lawn and landscape, hospitals, food processing facilities, and farms. Pesticides are useful tool for managing pests in these locations, but it is important, and a requirement of the law, for these products to be used in accordance with the label. That includes proper handling and disposal of the empty containers that held the pesticide product. It is illegal to reuse a pesticide container for any purpose.

In pesticide labels include instructions for pesticide



rinsed. The rinse water from the container should be applied as a pesticide following the application instruction on the pesticide label. Once the container is rinsed in accordance with the label and punctured, it is

storage and disposal. For products that are in plastic containers (primarily HDPE), one disposal option is recycling – but only under a specific government-industry partnership.

Do not place pesticide containers in community or municipal recycling program collections.

Label instructions require that empty pesticide containers (other than paper) be triple-rinsed or pressure

considered clean and can be recycled through the Agricultural Container Recycling Council (ACRC) program that operates in Vermont. The ACRC is a non-profit organization “that works to facilitate the collection and recycling of one-way rigid HDPE plastic agricultural crop protection, specialty pest control, animal health, micronutrient/fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product containers.” About

ACRC - ACRC (agrecycling.org). There are many resources addressing how to rinse a pesticide container on the ACRC website. Additionally, all containers eligible for recycling through ACRC must be HDPE and no larger than 55 gallons of in size, among other requirements concerning the types of products container

previously held. Containers that held products labeled for household use may not be recycled through the ACRC.

ACRC coordinates pesticide container recycling with Ag Plastic Solutions. Contact Justin Geisinger at 717-446-9917 or info@agplasticsolutions.com more information about scheduling a pick up.

Pesticide Management Seminar

Join other pesticide management professionals on October 31 at VSU-Randolph Campus, Judd Hall for a day of getting your questions answered about pesticide regulation and appropriate use and earn recertification credits. You can find details about this event and other opportunities for recertification credits by using the online recertification course locator. Search for courses by in person (onsite), online (on demand), and webinar (one-time online course), and by date. <https://usaplants.vermont.gov/usaplants/PesticideApplicator/MeetingSearch.aspx>.

Adopt a Cow Program Connects Students and Local Dairy Farmers

By Elicia Pinsonault,
New England Dairy

This fall, thousands of classrooms across New England are getting a new class pet. New England Dairy is partnering with Discover Dairy to bring the Adopt a Cow program to students in grades K-12. Through the Adopt a Cow program, teachers and students are paired with a local dairy farm and their calves. They receive photos and video updates

throughout the school year to provide an inside look at dairy farming in New England.

Last year, more than 40,000 classrooms participated in the program. New England Dairy supported 1,600 classrooms representing over 60,000 students throughout the region.

Through updates, immersive hands-on learning activities, and free curriculum, students and their teachers gain a deeper

understanding of the dairy industry and how milk is produced on a farm before it reaches their table and schools. Several of the lessons in the curriculum follow Common CORE standards in math, reading, and science.

New England Dairy will be working with three host farms for this year's Adopt a Cow Program, including Gervais Family Farms in Enosburg Falls, Vermont.

The Adopt a Cow program also offers live

virtual chats and farm tours. After months of updates and watching their calves grow and develop, students have the opportunity to meet

their calf in real time and get any outstanding questions answered by their dairy farmer.



Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement Program

By Rebecca Brockett, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets offers funding assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to organic producers and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through an USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees to become newly certified or re-certified for specific scopes under the National Organic Program (NOP) are eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 75% of their direct certification costs paid between October 1 and September 30 annually, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. There are up to four eligible certification

scopes (crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling), which must be individually inspected for organic certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

Allowable costs include application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, user fees/sale assessments, and postage.

To learn more and apply,

please visit agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organic-costshare

The application deadline is November 1, 2023. Reimbursement is available on a

first come, first served basis. Please contact Terry Smith via email at terry.smith@vermont.gov or by phone 802-828-5667 with any questions.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to be able to help you more easily identify upcoming grant opportunities. Please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/calendar> for more information.

Programs Open Year-Round

Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Technical and financial assistance for engineered conservation practices on Vermont farms.

Jenn LaValley

Jenn.LaValley@vermont.gov

802-828-2431

Pasture And Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Technical and financial assistance for pasture management and livestock exclusion from surface water on Vermont farms.

Mary Montour

Mary.Montour@vermont.gov

802-461-6087

Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

Technical and financial assistance for implementing buffers and seeding down critical areas on VT farms.

Sonia Howlett

Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov

802-522-4655

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Implementation costs of vegetated buffers and rental payments for maintained buffers on VT agricultural land.

Ben Gabos

Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov

802-461-3814

Phil Wilson

Phillip.Wilson@vermont.gov

802-505-5378

October

Farm to School and Early Childhood Capacity Grant

Grants to help schools and early childhood organizations develop farm to school programs or farm to early childhood programs

Gina Clithero

Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov

802-585-6225

Farm to Institution Market Development Grants

Grants to improve local producer access to institutional markets including schools, early childhood programs, hospitals, colleges, and prisons.

Gina Clithero

Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov

802-585-6225

November

Agricultural Fairs & Field Days Capital Grants and Operational Stipends

Grants for 20-year capital improvements and operational stipends for fairs and field days

Drew Watson

Andrew.Watson@vermont.gov

802-636-7793

Fall

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)

Purchase of innovative farm equipment that aids in the reduction of runoff

Sonia Howlett

Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov

802-522-4655

On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling Grant

Grants to provide dairy farmers with funds that support the purchase and supplies to improve milk storage, handling and energy efficiencies

Ben Eldredge

Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov

802-522-9478

Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant

Grants to support food safety projects, including specialized equipment purchase, supplies, food safety training, and certifications.

Ben Eldredge

Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov

802-522-9478

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Business Enhancement Grants

Grants to provide farm and forest businesses with funds to support marketing, infrastructure, equipment, workforce development, and energy-focused projects

Clare Salerno

clare.salerno@vermont.gov

802-917-2637



Start Planning Now for Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Grant Applications

By Clare Salerno, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Do you operate a farm or forest business or a food business that uses local farm products? Or are you

a producer association or service provider that works with these businesses? Are you looking for funds for equipment, infrastructure, marketing, climate-focused projects, research, or workforce development? If

so, consider applying for a Working Lands Enterprise Initiative grant!

Applications will open throughout the fall and winter, with awards announced throughout the winter and spring. These awards should

be for projects that you will start working on in spring/early summer 2024.

Most grants expect a match equal to 100% of the grant request, meaning that for example an organization or business applying for a

\$25,000 should expect to contribute \$25,000 in their own cash and/or labor.

Find details for each grant online at workinglands.vermont.gov

Funding Opportunities Available for Fiscal Year 2024

WLEI Funding Opportunity	Application Window	Award Notification	Award Size	Eligible Projects/Expenses	Eligible Applicants
Service Provider Grant	September 6 – October 16, 2023	December 2023	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Advising and Network Development Workforce Development Study in Primary Manufacturing Forestry Wage and Labor Laws Producer Association Umbrella Organization Feasibility Study 	Organizations that provide services to farm and forest businesses
Producer Association Grant	September 6 – October 16, 2023	December 2023	\$10,000-\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market research and development Leadership and staff development Board training, refreshing by-laws, committee work, or strategic planning 	Non-profit associations of farm, forest, or local food businesses
Business Enhancement Grant	October 6 – November 20, 2023	January 2024	\$15,000-\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market development Research and development Infrastructure and equipment Energy focused projects Workforce training and development 	Farm, forest, or local food businesses
ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant	December 8, 2023 – January 19, 2024 (pre-application phase)	May 2024	\$50,000-\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market development Research and development Infrastructure and equipment Energy focused projects Workforce training and development 	Farm or forest businesses that raise livestock, grow crops, tap maple trees, or harvest timber and that have been in business since January 2020
Supply Chain Impact Grant	December 8, 2023 – January 19, 2024 (pre-application phase)	May 2024	\$50,000-\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market development Research and development Infrastructure and equipment Energy focused projects Workforce training and development 	Farm, forest, or food businesses that use local products
Small Farm Diversification Grant	January 12 – March 4, 2024	March 2024	Up to \$15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversifying farm products produced Transitioning from one form of farming to another Processing farm products Developing an accessory on-farm business 	Farms of any acreage whose gross income from farm product sales equals at least half of the farmer's annual gross income; or a small farm subject to the Required Agricultural Practices (farms not registered as medium or large farm operations)
Trade Show Assistance Grant	Winter 2024 TBD	March 2024	\$2,000 - \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning, exhibiting, and selling Vermont products at out-of-state trade shows or virtual shows targeting out-of-state buyers 	Farm, forest, or local food businesses with 3+ wholesale accounts



Farmers and the Stigma of Pain

By Leanne Porter and Eva Griffin, Farm First

A hard-working Vermont farmer went to her doctor to discuss debilitating knee pain. Presumably with good intentions, the doctor said, “oh, you’re a farmer, you don’t feel pain!”

Although we appreciate this doctor’s admiration for how tough farmers are, we understand that it is more about how tough farmers *have to be* to maintain a livelihood, no matter the

personal toll.

For many farmers, the nature of their work means that their own minds and bodies are the most important tool they have to ensure a successful business. In this way, farmer injuries can lead to a great deal of social and emotional stress, and additional health issues.

Any kind of pain, whether physical or emotional, makes it harder for a person to get



FarmFirst
Resources and support for farmers

through the day. While this is as true for farmers as it is for anyone else, they often confront the assumption in their communities

that they can tough it out alone, no matter the circumstances.

For example, in an attempt to be supportive, the same doctor told this injured farmer patient that farmers “just have to push through and be strong.” Ironically, this pressure can leave farmers feeling isolated, gradually turning a painful situation into an unbearable one. It’s the idea that the only way you can take pride in your work is by struggling alone no matter the harms you face.

This story came up in conversation during our farmer peer support network meetings. Vermont has started an innovative program where farmers can call other farmers who are trained as supportive mentors, to talk about stress (learn more at farmfirst.org).

After hearing this story, a different farmer peer said “I keep thinking about this perception that ‘farmers don’t feel pain’ as a large contributing factor to what leads to complete collapse.”

“I keep wondering, what if farmers were allowed to feel pain and be seen as strong, by themselves and others, for acknowledging that pain, getting the support they need and moving through it?” I wish farmers could be seen as both strong, and just as physically and

emotionally sensitive as everyone else. I wonder if this would make it easier for them to reach out when they need support, or just want to connect and be heard and seen?”

We feel fortunate that the stigma around farmers seeking mental health support has improved dramatically in Vermont, which has impacted farmer resilience, even at times as harsh as the disastrous flooding that we are dealing with. Farmers can and should take pride in recognizing that the smartest decision for their farms, businesses, families, and themselves is NOT to struggle alone when there is help available.

We are glad to have received calls from farmers across the state who are

realizing that they need help and are finding the courage to ask for it. As usual, farmers are showing the strength to meet new challenges and adapt to their circumstances, which includes knowing when to reach out for support. We hope the public perception of farmers can catch up.

For more information on Farm First, please call or visit our website:

- Call: (802) 318-5538 during daytime work hours (8:00 AM-4:30 PM M-F)
- Call: 877-493-6216 outside of daytime work hours
- Email: Eva Griffin at EvaG@farmfirst.org
- Website: <https://www.farmfirst.org/>

For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag’s Tile Drain Report available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 anytime day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit: www.vcil.org.

For more agricultural events visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses webpage at: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities

Agency Contact Numbers

Phone numbers for Agency programs are listed below. You are always welcome to call our main line at 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to the person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.

Program Phone Numbers

Act 250	802-461-6798
Animal Health	802-828-2421
Business Development	802-828-1619
Dairy	802-828-2433
Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide	802-828-2431
Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime	802-828-5050
Licensing & Registration	802-828-2436
Meat Inspection	802-828-2426
Pesticide & Plant Health	802-828-1732
Produce Program	802-522-7811
Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab	802-585-6073
Water Quality BMP	802-828-3474
Water Quality Grants	802-622-4098
Water Quality Reports	802-272-0323
Weights & Measures	802-828-2433
Working Lands	802-917-2637

DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

VT Ice Cream Maker Among the Winners of the Northeastern Dairy Product Innovation Competition

By Katie Spring, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center at VAAFM

Laura Mack of lu.lu Ice Cream won big with her goat milk gelato at the inaugural Northeastern Dairy Product Innovation Competition. Developed and hosted by Cornell University's Center for Regional Economic Advancement and the Northeast Dairy Foods Research Center, the competition was funded by a \$1 million grant by the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC).

The multi-stage competition saw over 50 dairy businesses apply, with just 10 finalists making it through the first round. Those finalists received \$20,000 and three months of industry mentoring from Cornell's food processing and business experts. In August, the finalists pitched their products to a panel of judges. The three winners – lu.lu Ice cream of Vermont, Oakfield Corners Cheese of New York, and Terra Firma Farm of Connecticut – took home an additional \$55,000 each and will receive ongoing business mentorship.

“One of the most gratifying moments was collaborating with our food science mentor to make our gelato not just lactose-light, but

entirely lactose-free,” Mack said of her experience in the competition. “This breakthrough meant that our goat milk gelato could be enjoyed by a wider range of people. The competition as a whole exceeded any of my goals.”

Before entering Cornell's Dairy Product Innovation Competition, Mack developed her goat milk gelato with support from an

NE-DBIC Goat & Sheep Dairy Supply Chain grant. The grant funding allowed her to bring the new product to market while sourcing goat milk directly from a local producer, Midnight Goat Farm.

Along with the prize money and mentoring, Mack and the other finalists will be featured at the Dairy Innovation Showcase at the

2023 Grow-NY Summit in November, where they'll be able to introduce their products and network with companies and organizations from around the region. Mack emphasized the impact of the competition, saying, “As our business flourishes, a ripple effect cascades through the community of farmers — dairy and others. Our growth translates

into increased demand for goat and cow milk, creating a mutually beneficial cycle where our expansion directly contributes to the growth of our farm partners.”

To learn more about the Northeastern Dairy Product Innovation Competition, visit dairyinnovation.org. Read a full interview with Laura Mack at nedairyinnovation.com/lulu-innovation.



Winners of the Northeastern Product Innovation Competition. From left, Brie Casadei of Terra Firma Farm; Molly Moffett and Alicia Lamb of Oakfield Corners Cheese; and Laura Mack of lu.lu. Ice Cream.